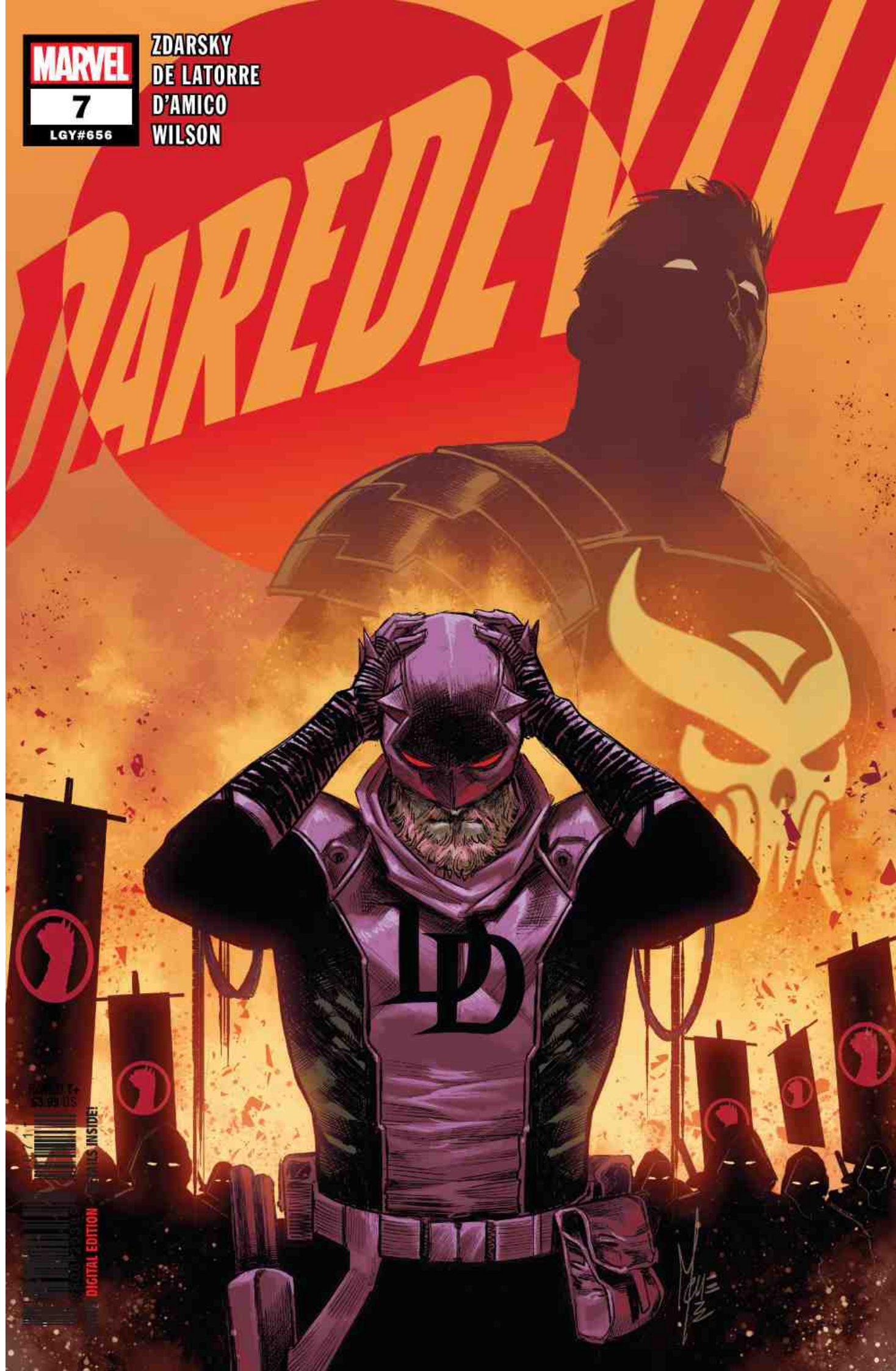


MARVEL

7

LGY#656

**ZDARSKY
DE LATORRE
D'AMICO
WILSON**



Rated T+
\$3.99 US

3 PAGES INSIDE!

DIGITAL EDITION

Frank Castle.
The Punisher.

A murderer, killing
criminals in a
deluded war that
only he sees.

Until *the
Hand* took
him in.

Until their *high
priestess*,
intent on feeding
the Beast, the
one they worship
in Hell...

...made him
their *leader*.

Gave him
an *army*.

He's insane. But he
was his *own* army, a
singular, malevolent
presence.

He is *Hell on Earth* now. Chaos.
The high priestess knows this.

But *the Hand's*
whisperer from the
shadows, *Aka...*

...is playing
a *different*
game. Not one
of *chaos*.

One of
prophecy.
Or so...



...Elektra and Stick keep telling me.

YOU'RE A FOOL, MATTHEW MURDOCK.

I'M NOT THE ONE...

...WHO WAS CAUGHT ON VIDEO MURDERING THE PRESIDENT.



LOOK, ELEKTRA... I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME FOR ME TO TAKE MY CREW INTO THE WORLD--



EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR US! THE ISLAND PROTECTS US FROM PRYING EYES!

WE NEED TO FOCUS, AKA TOLD ME THERE WILL BE WAR ON THE PLAINS OF YUSUHARA.

THAT ONE OF US WILL DIE, WE NEED TO PREPARE AND--



DAMMIT, GOLDY HAS ROBBED ME OF MY FREE WILL, AND THESE PROPHECIES ARE DOING THE SAME.

IT'S A TRAP, ELEKTRA, AKA IS BAITING US, MAKING US UNSURE.

I'VE LOST TOO MUCH TO "FATE" LATELY. I'M GOING TO LIVE AND DO WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE...



...HELP PEOPLE.

YOU SHOULD DO THE SAME, "MY QUEEN."



RRRAHH!

**CHIP
ZDARSKY**
WRITER

**RAFAEL DE LATORRE &
MARCO CHECCHETTO**
ARTISTS

**ELISABETTA
D'AMICO**
INKER

**MATTHEW
WILSON**
COLOR ARTIST

WHEN MATT MURDOCK WAS A KID, HE LOST HIS SIGHT IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING RADIOACTIVE CHEMICALS. THOUGH HE COULD NO LONGER SEE, THE CHEMICALS HEIGHTENED MURDOCK'S OTHER SENSES AND IMBUED HIM WITH AN AMAZING 360-DEGREE RADAR SENSE. NOW MATT USES HIS ABILITIES TO FIGHT FOR HIS CITY AS...

DAREDEVIL

DAREDEVIL IS MARRIED.

CENTURIES AGO, A GROUP NAMED THE FIST WAS FORMED TO STAND IN OPPOSITION TO THE SADISTIC AND VIOLENT NINJA CLAN **THE HAND**. AFTER A GRUELING RITUAL, **MATT MURDOCK** AND **ELEKTRA NATCHIOS** HAVE EMERGED AS THE FIST'S KING AND QUEEN.

MATT AND ELEKTRA BROKE INTO THE MYRMIDON AND OFFERED THE INCARCERATED CRIMINALS THERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REHABILITATE THEMSELVES AT THE FIST'S ISLAND STRONGHOLD IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR AID AGAINST THE HAND.

THE HAND HAS KIDNAPPED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF WORLD LEADERS AND REPLACED THEM WITH DEATH-WORSHIPPING PUPPETS, FRAMING ELEKTRA FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE PROCESS. EMBOLDENED BY THEIR NEW LEADER, **THE PUNISHER**, THE HAND IS POISED TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN ITS IMAGE, UNLESS MATT AND ELEKTRA CAN STOP THEM!

THE RED FIST SAGA

PART 7

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER

**MARCO CHECCHETTO
& MATTHEW WILSON**
COVER ARTISTS

**PEACH MOMOKO;
FRANK CHO & SABINE RICH**
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

TOM GRONEMAN
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It's been months.

Months since I started. A community on Makaanrushi island, working toward making our visitors better people.

To break free from their cycles of incarceration.

Baby steps. it's time to see if they can do some good now.

ASTELMAX

HN. FEELS A LITTLE PUBLIC.

OW VICTION

STOP EVICTIONS

STOP

I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING US TO FIGHT NINJA OR DR. OCTOPUS OR SOMETHING...

CHARLOTTE,
NORTH
CAROLINA.

...BUT YOU'RE SERIOUSLY TELLING ME YOU BROKE US OUT OF PRISON...

...SO WE COULD WALK UP TO SOME COPS AND BREAK THE LAW AGAIN?

YOU'RE LAWBREAKERS. SO AM I.

THAT'S NOT WHAT THIS HAS BEEN ABOUT.

IT'S JUST TIME TO STOP BREAKING THEM FOR SELF-GAIN.
WE BREAK THE LAWS OF MAN TO HELP OTHERS.

LET'S GO.

MARVEL REMEMBERS



CARLOS PACHECO 1961-2022

"My friend Carlos Pacheco was a sweetheart of a guy who loved comics, the Marvel comics that he read as a child most of all. He brought an enthusiasm to his work that went beyond the drive of the professional — he was truly invested in the characters and their fictitious lives. His work combined the dynamics of John Byrne with the realism of Neal Adams, creating a synthesis that captured the essence of American super hero comics — a form that was exotic to Carlos as he first read the translated stories but which he absorbed and came to embody like a native. A citizen of Spain, the Marvel Universe was his true home."

— TOM BREVOORT

"Carlos was a dream collaborator who made every story better with his ideas, his brilliant storytelling and his beautiful art. But more, he was warmhearted, enthusiastic and a wonderful person. I was thrilled to work with him but happier still to have him as a friend. He will be enormously missed."

— KURT BUSIEK



WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

THIS ISN'T RIGHT! THESE ARE OUR HOMES!

This building was sold to a developer named **Castlemax**.

Its occupants were given **eviction notices** based on manufactured **lease violations**.



**BANG
BANG**

MR. RAMIREZ! THIS IS THE POLICE!
YOU NEED TO VACATE THE PREMISES!

It always comes down to money and purchased power.



WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF THESE CASTLEMAX @##% AND THEIR THREATS!

But there's a higher power.



IT'S NOT A THREAT! YOU'VE BEEN LEGALLY EVICTED!

##% IT. PLACE IS GETTING DEMOLISHED ANYWAY...



**KR
K
K
K**



AHHH!

S-STAY AWAY!

NOT HAPPENING! DROP THE BAT!

OFFICERS...







VIOLENCE
WHEN
NECESSARY.



THIS GUY
EATING DIRT IS
NECESSARY.

HURTING HIM
JUST MAKES YOU
FEEL BETTER.

IT'S A
SELFISH ACT.
YOU'RE BETTER
THAN--

--JUST
BLOW IT UP. THEY
CAN BLAME THE
PROTESTERS--



JAMES! THERE ARE
EXPLOSIVES IN THE
BUILDING!

Castlemax's
security would
kill the
residents and
cops just to
end this!



NO
WORRIES.

Speed Demon can
cover the building
from top to bottom
a dozen times in
seconds. He won't
know where to look...



...but
I do.

BASEMENT,
BEHIND THE
BOILER.

MAIN
FLOOR SUPPLY
CLOSET.

THIRD
FLOOR, ELEVATOR
SHAFT.

My *Fist*-enhanced
senses...are overwhelming.
I can feel the *shapes* of
everything through the
building. If air touches it...



...so
do I.



As fast as
I can list
them--

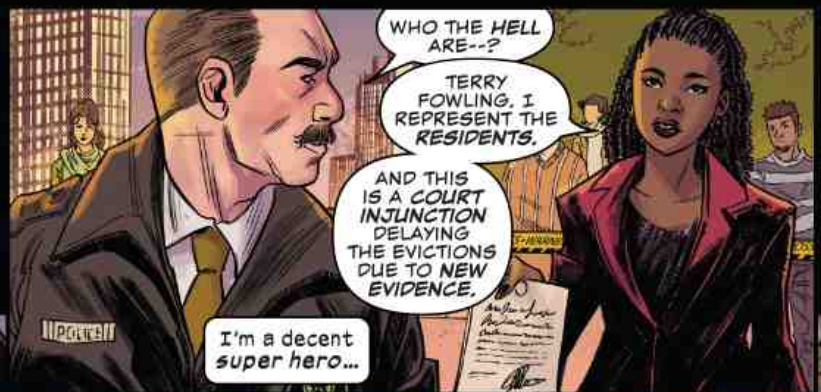


--Speed
Demon
defuses.



Skat BOOM







THAT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
THAT BUILDING IS OURS! WE CAN DO WHATEVER THE #\$@%--



--WE WANT...

CLIVE MARKUSON.



C.E.O. OF CASTLEMAX.

YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.



WH-WH-WH-WHO--?

IT'S INTERESTING, REALLY.

AS C.E.O. OF CASTLEMAX, YOU HAVE TO PLEASE THE SHAREHOLDERS OR ELSE YOU LOSE YOUR JOB.

AND THE ONLY WAY TO DO THAT...



...IS UNLIMITED GROWTH, YEAR OVER YEAR OVER YEAR, UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

NO MATTER WHAT THE COST.

OR YOU'RE DONE.

P-PLEASE, I D-DON'T--



WELL, I'M HERE TO TELL YOU: YOU'RE DONE.

NO MORE EVICTIONS. NO MORE PUSHING PEOPLE INTO THE STREETS.

OR WE'LL BE BACK WITH MORE THAN WORDS.



SO...NO VIOLENCE?

UNLESS NECESSARY.

AND YOU THINK...



...VIOLENCE IS JUST PHYSICAL?

THAT GUY IS GOING TO HAVE NIGHTMARES FOR MONTHS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T ENJOY THAT.

I DIDN'T.



I did.

SOMETIMES FEAR IS THE ONLY WEAPON-- THE GENTLEST WEAPON.

WE NEEDED TO STOP HIM FROM DOING MORE HARM.



YEAH? THEN WHY NOT BRING HIM WITH US? WHY NOT PUT ALL THESE C.E.O.s ON YOUR LITTLE SOCIALIST ISLAND TOO?

WHY IS IT THAT GUYS LIKE US ARE THE ONES IN NEED OF YOUR "KIND REHABILITATION" BUT NOT THE GUYS IN MANSIONS?



LOOK... I GET WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

YOU WANT TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN JUST BEATING OUR ASSES STRAIGHT INTO PRISON OVER AND OVER AGAIN...

IT'S WORKING, BULLET, YOU KNOW IT IS.



SURE. SOME OF THESE GUYS MAY TAKE TO IT. HELL, YOU'VE MANAGED TO CONVINCE ME TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT...

...BUT I CAN'T BE ON YOUR ISLAND ANYMORE WHILE MY BOY IS OUT THERE WITHOUT HIS FATHER. IF YOU WANT TO BREAK THESE CYCLES...



...LET ME BE WITH LANCE. HE'S THE THING THAT MAKES ME BELIEVE I CAN BE GOOD.

THESE PRISONS YOU HATE, THEY KEEP FATHERS FROM THEIR SONS, AND THAT DOESN'T HELP EITHER OF THEM.



I'M HEADING BACK TO THE CITY. I CAN'T PROMISE YOU ANYTHING, BUT I'M GOING TO TRY MY BEST TO DO RIGHT, OR AT LEAST DO LESS WRONG IN THE WORLD.

His heart says he isn't lying.

BUT I AIN'T GETTIN' SOME JOE FLIPPIN' BURGERS.



At what point do I let them go?

I... OKAY, BUT THE ISLAND IS YOURS.

WHEN THINGS ARE ROUGH, WHEN YOU FEEL YOURSELF SLIPPING...



...USE THIS TO CONTACT ME. AND I CAN BRING YOU BACK.

I'M DEDICATED TO THIS, BULLET. I'M DEDICATED TO YOU.

I... HEH. NO ONE'S EVER BEEN THERE FOR ME BEFORE.

KINDA WEIRD THAT THE FIRST PERSON IS A GUY WHO ROUTINELY PUNCHES ME IN THE FACE.



AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH FLIPPING BURGERS. I'VE DONE IT.

FEEDING PEOPLE IS A FAR BETTER JOB THAN HURTING THEM.

YOU AIN'T TASTED MY COOKING.

This may be a mistake, but I have to be willing to make them.

Almost all of the people I've brought to the island are happy to be there...



...to have some sense of order and peace without the pressures of their old lives and habits.

I can't force Bullet to walk a path. I can just give him some light to find his way...

WHAT, IS THE BIG GUY GONNA WALK BACK TO THE ISLAND?



...and keep watch over him.

ANGRY?

YESSSS.

GOOD. CONTROL IT. HARNESS IT. YOUR ANGER IS THE BLADE.



I... HOW...?

CONTROL.



MY LOVE, I BELIEVE YOU LEFT WITH FOUR.

BULLET NEEDED TO BE WITH HIS SON. I GAVE HIM A JEWEL SO WE CAN KEEP TABS ON HIM.



DOES HE KNOW IT ALLOWS US TO SPY ON HIM?

HE DOES NOT.

HM. YOU'RE BECOMING AS UNTRUSTING AS ME.

COME, I NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED WHILE YOU WERE AWAY ON YOUR PLAYDATE.



THE
BOOK IS
ACTIVE.



WHAT DO
YOU--?

IT'S WRITING
ITSELF. REVEALING
MORE.

CASTLE IS ON
A MURDERING
SPREE. HEADED
TO YUSUHARA
NOW.

HE THINKS
THERE'S A TOWN
OF KILLERS THAT
NEED TO BE WIPED
OUT THERE.



THOUSANDS
WILL DIE IF WE
DON'T STOP
HIM.

OH
MY GOD,
THE BOOK,
I...



...I CAN
READ IT. I
CAN...



IT'S ALL
HERE...

...MY
LIFE...

My life. Why
can't it just
be my life?
Why can't--?



...YOU
REALLY THINK
YOU'RE STILL IN
CONTROL?

MATTHEW.

MATTHEW...



WHAT?
I'M SORRY,
I--

IT SEEMS
WE HAVE A
COMMUNICATION
COMING IN ALREADY
FROM YOUR FREED
LAMB...



BULLET?
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHY--?

MY
LANCE IS--HN!
DAMMIT!

YOU
BASTARDS!
I'LL KILL
YOU!

THEY TOOK
HIM! THIS IS
ALL YOUR
FAULT!

I'LL
KILL ALL OF
YOU!



*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.





What can I say?

Everyone in this compound has looked for meaning, for something to fight for, whether they know it or not.

Some thought fighting for a broken system was the way.

Others thought fighting just for themselves, after a life of abandonment, was the way.

I tell them again about *the Hand*. About the lack of gray in this fight.

They're evil. They wish only to *commit* evil for *the Beast* in Hell.

I say to the freed inmates that I'd hoped they'd fight alongside me one day, that they'd see this fight against evil as their own.



I tell them
we're not
ready.



It's too soon. We can't take
on *the Hand* army and their
insane leader in battle.

But there's
a child.



I say those
words and
they hang in
the air.

"But there's
a child."

We're not
ready.



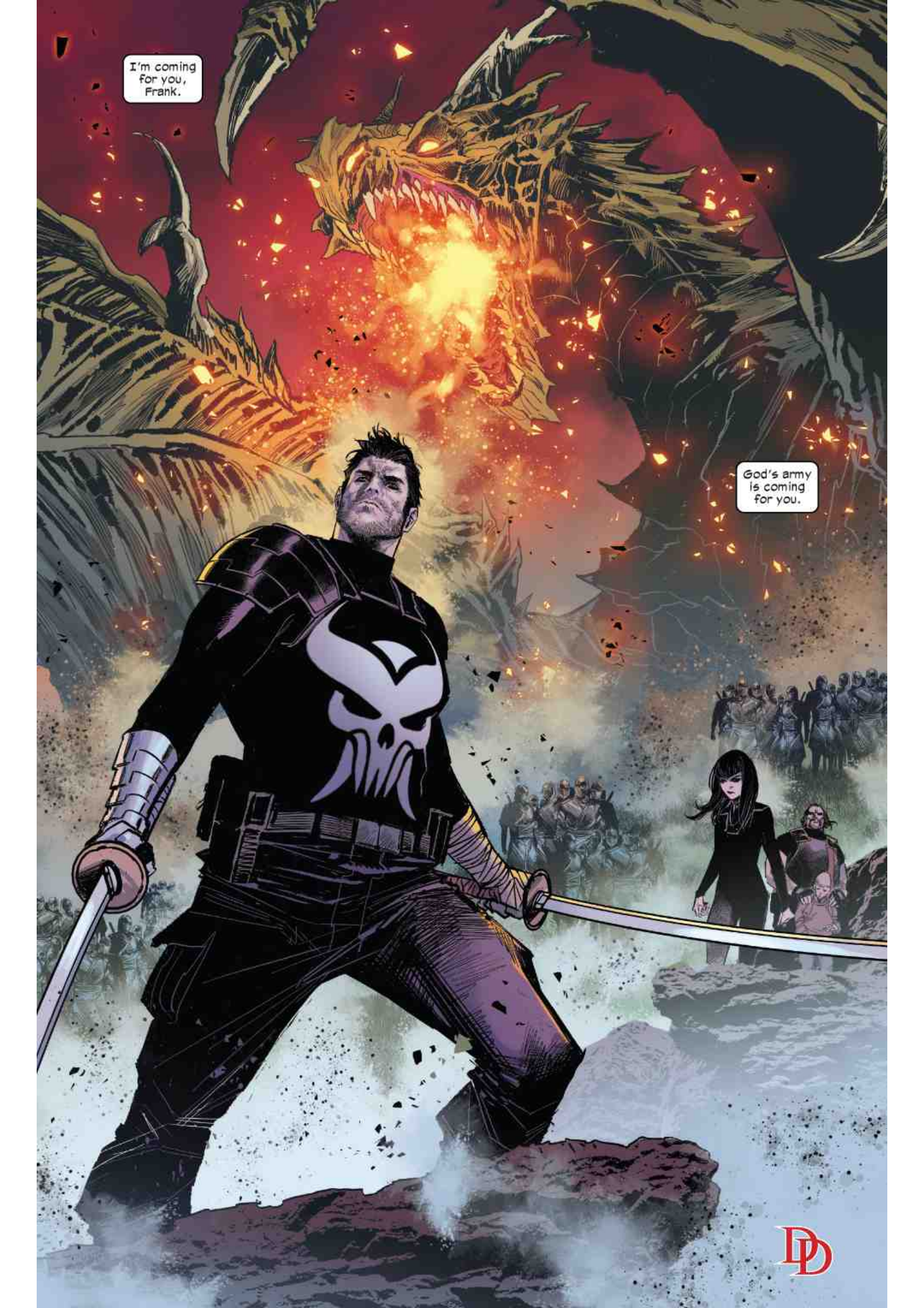
PROTECT THE
BOY, AKA.

HE DIDN'T
CHOOSE HIS
FATHER.

OF
COURSE, LORD
PUNISHER.

And evil is
always ready.

So, dammit, you
just do your best.



I'm coming
for you,
Frank.

God's army
is coming
for you.

**NEXT
ISSUE**



